

# Idaho Trade Token Newsletter

**Boise, Idaho**

**January, 1997**

**Volume 1, Number 1**

Dear fellow Idaho trade token collectors,

There is quite a "cottage industry" going on now in the token hobby. ATCO's financial troubles started spinoff publications from NATCA and TACT. Not to be outdone, I have decided to start this Idaho Trade Token Newsletter. Seriously, I have felt a need for some time to improve communications within our segment of the hobby. Plus, I wanted to experiment with some imaging and desktop publishing techniques. This vehicle may be the answer, if you like and support the effort.

I propose to send this newsletter to the group of "serious" Idaho trade token collectors I know, starting with those of you who have so generously helped me with listings for the Idaho token catalog. Others desiring to be on the mailing list may be added if they contribute some postage to the cause. The size will be limited to what I can send for a single stamp. For starters, it will contain news (like new discoveries, Idaho maverick attributions, etc.), my queries (like who ended up with the Podunk Saloon piece in the recent mail bid sale in ATCO), requests for comments (see below), etc. If you want it to contain buy/sell/trade lists, we can do that also. I would welcome input from each of you for every issue. I am not against expanding it to other areas of Idahoana as most of us have interests more broad than just tokens. But I do want to keep the information coverage related to Idaho.

From what I can tell, Idaho token collectors are a more genial bunch than collectors of any other state. Let's keep it that way!

If you don't want your name used in connection with any particular news item, please let me know. I would like to be able to congratulate you by name in the newsletter on your new acquisition, but you may have reasons for not wanting it known...

This initial mailing is going to the following people:

Kendall Ballard	Rudy Burns	Mike Fritz	Ron Haberman
Jim Hemphill	Len Hoskins	Lynn Langdon	Lloyd Libert
Dan Lute	Jim Mabry	Don Mac Bride	Dick Magnuson
Greg Manos	Birney Powell	Dean Rasmussen	Wally Waters

My apologies if I have missed any. There are many others who have helped me, but these are the active "Major" players.

## News

At long last, I am about to have something in your hands to supplement the Schell's Idaho token catalogs. Since the "final version" Idaho book with histories, photos, etc. is taking (and will continue to take) lots of research time, I have elected to do a "database dump" and publish a "Checklist of Idaho Trade Tokens". I view this as an interim step to help satisfy the need. Plus it should bring a few new tokens to the surface. Attached for your review is a prototype of a page from the checklist.

The intent of this is to have a vehicle collectors can use to inventory their holdings, identify varieties, write in notes and updates, and to carry with them while token hunting.

Before I proceed, I would like to receive your input on a few ideas and questions:

Is the format acceptable? I can scrunch it down to get more tokens per page, but it becomes more difficult to read. I would like to leave enough space so that the user could add notes, new discoveries, etc.

The sequence is alphabetical by issuer, then the order becomes fuzzy. I organized the varieties from smaller denominations to larger ones, by size, by material, by order of discovery. Some anomalies will occur: The HOTEL VICTOR token is alphabetized under V. The SMOKE HOUSE / G. Q. BROWER is under B. CENTRAL CIGAR STORE / R. & R. is under C. BROWN comes before W. H. BROWN.

The checklist has both a "Schell number" and an index number into my database. I propose keeping the Schell numbers, but modifying them to be of a standard format. Instead of using from one to four letters for the town name, I'd like to change them all to four letters following a format I have seen elsewhere. Instead of BO for Boise, it would be BOIS; instead of K for Ketchum, it would be KTCH; WESR, not W for Weiser; KLLG, not KEL for Kellogg, etc. The numbers and variety letters still would be assigned in sequence of discovery. I'm not sure many people care about these numbers, anyway, especially since most collectors want one per town or one per issuer, rather than every variety.

What about the general merchandise business where some denominations of a "set" are known? Shall I put in the missing ones, assuming they will eventually turn up? (i.e. 5¢, 10¢, 50¢, & \$1.00 are known but 25¢ isn't.)

I can put in a rudimentary rarity scale, but I am hesitant to do so as I have not surveyed every collection, especially for varieties and common tokens. The prototype has a number indicating the quantity I currently know about, but that number will probably be deleted before I go to press. How about if you buy a copy of the checklist, I send you two? You go through your collection and check your holdings in both copies, then send me one copy to update the computer for the catalog.

Do you want a "Town List" included, like the one Mike Fritz did? Remember, this checklist will be in public places, so perhaps initials or first names would be better..

### Aberdeen (Bingham County)

<input type="checkbox"/>	J. A. MOORE / ABERDEEN / IDAHO GOOD FOR / 10¢ / IN TRADE ABE-1RS/A002/P,2	21	Rd	Br
<input type="checkbox"/>	J. A. MOORE / ABERDEEN / IDAHO GOOD FOR / 12 1/2¢ / IN TRADE ABE-1/A001/P,3	21	Rd	Br
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. F. PLOTTNER / BARBER / SHOP / & / BILLIARD HALL GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE ABE-2/A003/P,1	21	Rd	Br

### Ahsahka (Clearwater County)

<input type="checkbox"/>	AHSAHKA POOL HALL / AHSAHKA, / IDA. GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN TRADE AHS-2(A)/A006/P,1	21	Rd	Al
<input type="checkbox"/>	R. M. CROW / AHSAHKA, IDA. GOOD FOR / 12 1/2¢ / IN TRADE AHS-1/A004/P,1	21	Rd	Br

### Albion (Cassia County)

<input type="checkbox"/>	ALBION MERC. CO. LTD. / ALBION / IDAHO GOOD FOR / 5¢ / IN / MERCHANDISE / AT RETAIL ALB-1(B)/A174/P,2	21	Rd	Br
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALBION MERC. CO. LTD. / ALBION, / IDAHO GOOD FOR / 10¢ / IN / MERCHANDISE / AT RETAIL ALB-1/A007/P,1	24	Rd	Br
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALBION MERC. CO. LTD. / ALBION / IDAHO GOOD FOR / 25¢ / IN / MERCHANDISE / AT RETAIL ALB-1(A)/A161/P(poor),1	29	Rd	Br
<input type="checkbox"/>	JOE. PARKE / ALBION, / IDA. GOOD FOR / 12 1/2 / CTS. / IN TRADE ALB-2/A008/P,1	21	Rd	Br

## Bunker Hill Smelter token query

At the Southern Idaho Coin Club show in November, 1996, I was able to buy KEL-33 and KEL-33(A), the B.H.S. pieces from Kellogg. Now I ask your help in figuring out the varieties. If you don't have them in your collection, these are very unusual for Idaho token s, although they are not very scarce. The planchets are thick—about 4mm—and appear to me to have been cast. KEL-33 is copper and KEL-33(A) is zinc. The "obverse" side is concave and has denticles spiraling around it. The "reverse" is convex and has no ornamentation. The pieces were counterstamped at the last stage in their manufacture. One stamp used looks to have been punched "B.H.S." as a unit. The letters are 3.3mm high, sans serif and the periods are tiny squares. In other cases, the B, H, and S were punched individually. These letters are 5.5mm high, have serifs and no periods are used. The pieces I've examined carefully so far have combinations of these stamps.

Please check out these pieces if you have them in your collection and let me know what combination yours are.

The story I remember hearing about the use of these tokens has not been verified: the workers in the smelter were subject to lead poisoning in their work and through the efforts of their union were given a daily ration of milk which was believed to leach the lead out of their system. These tokens were given to the workers to exchange for their milk ration. I don't recall the significance of the copper versus the zinc, but both were products of the smelter.



KEL-33 (obv) with B H S



KEL-33 (rev) with B.H.S.

## Mystery Nampa token query

In my collection are six 21mm round brass tokens, GOOD FOR / ONE / 12½¢ / CIGAR. They each have been devalued by being counterstamped with a 5. Apparently the issuing business changed hands, because the obverse of each token was partially ground off to erase the name, but NAMPA, / IDAHO. was untouched. Using the six tokens I have, I can make out: THE\_\_\_L. BA\_\_ER which could be THEO. L. BARBER, THEO. L. BARKER, or THE OWL. BARBER, or some combination other than these. I've not been able to find a directory listing for such names in Nampa, so I am at a standstill. Does anybody else have one of these mystery tokens? With maybe more letters?



## Introduction

In case you don't recognize the name of the newest member of the Idaho token-collecting fraternity, you should seek out and meet Dan Lute. Dan has been a metal detectorist for many years, finding tokens along the way and developing an interest in them. After retiring from the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation last summer, Dan plans to do a lot more detecting. Recently he made a rather large addition to his collection by purchasing the Hugh Hartman collection. Hugh had spent years collecting tokens (among other hobbies), but has now decided to pursue other interests.

## Idaho maverick wannabe's

We probably all have some unattributed mavericks in our collections. Further, there are probably a fair amount which will someday prove to be from Idaho. If you'd like to list them in this newsletter, perhaps we can help find them a home. No, I don't want to start a maverick column (as many of you know I already edit the TAMS maverick column), but with all of us having Idaho ties, perhaps we can help each other find Gem State homes for some. A few examples: the 3-H Billiard Hall (a Boise area probable), the M & O Cigar Store (likely from American Falls), Ireland's Cigar Store (Coeur d'Alene?), etc., etc.

## Token Organizations

If you are not a member of the ANA, TAMS, ATCO, NATCA, TACT, AVA, CIA, FBI, or any other alphabet soup organization, probably one of us is and can help you with an address, application, or the like. The same goes for the Idaho Historical Society, the various coin, metal detector, or other clubs around the region. Raise your hand if you want information.

## How profitable was a saloon?

The Idaho Historical Society's archives contain some really interesting tidbits. A few years ago I located some records of the Midway Bar in Boise. In 1911, this saloon was at the corner of 7th (now Capitol Boulevard) and Main where the Boise City Hall is now situated. The receipts and expenses were totaled by month for most of the year:

	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
January	1422.00	444.90
February	1160.00	542.85
March	1211.00	621.75
April	1228.00	1140.25
May	916.00	521.25
June	881.00	482.90
July	776.00	820.60
August	732.00	409.90
September	743.00	718.30
October	1463.00	740.15
November	418.00	352.85

The expenses included wages to bartenders and porters, beer and liquor, cigars and tobacco, food, rent on the building, water, etc., etc. It would be interesting to equate this to 1997 dollars. Also listed in the records were the names of the various employees who worked in the bar. Turnover was high, with many working there for only a few a few weeks or months. Porters were paid 50¢ per day and bartenders got \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day (plus tips?).

## From the January 15, 1910 Wardner News

### Death Knell to Dance Halls

"The County Commission sounded the death knell to the few remaining dives of the early days where gambling, dancing & kindred vices were indulged in. Dance halls of Wallace and Burke must close their doors to immoral women & stop the dances. If the order is not obeyed, saloon licenses will be cancelled."

There are three known 10¢ dance checks from Idaho. All are from the partnership of Daniel McInnis and John Johnson who operated the Gem Saloon in Wardner and the Owl Saloon in Wallace, circa 1900-01.

## Happy Holidays!

Best wishes to you and yours this Holiday Season, and may you have a healthful and Happy New Year with plenty of new tokens to add to your collection!

Remember to drop me a note with your input for this newsletter if you want to help it along.

Best,

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